



DMR

Maine Department of Marine Resources

Recreational Saltwater Fishing Newsletter

Volume 7 Number 1 Spring 2002

OVER 2,500 ANGLER INTERVIEWS COLLECTED IN 2001

DEAR CAPTAINS, MATES AND ANGLERS,

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Department of Marine Resources' "Saltwater Fishing Newsletter." As many of us have already wet a line this season, I would like to briefly recap the 2001 season as seen through our field observations.



OFFSHORE: The Atlantic bluefin tuna season opened June 1 and ended up decidedly better than 2000. Even though the bite was spotty for many, fish were entered in both the Bailey Island and Sturdivant Island Tournaments and the site of a fish being landed at a marina was not uncommon. Shark fishing started out slow but really turned around in early August when fishable numbers of makos, porbeagles, threshers and blue sharks appeared on the scene. Makos were the shark this year! Numerous anglers boated a wide size range of these bad boys including an 850 pound monster landed by Andy Boyt and Carl Bacon! Anglers targeting cod, haddock and pollock experienced some great fishing. This was evidenced by the marked increase in the

number of cod Tackle-Buster entries. Note that there are changes in the cod and haddock regs for 2002.

INSHORE: Strippers showed in fishable numbers along the western Maine coast by the beginning of May and worked their way east showing in most of the typical haunts when expected. Though there were plenty of stripers in the 18 to 32 inch range, trophy fish were few and far between. Generally, anglers fishing early morning/late evening did well, though bait fishing from the beaches was good both day and night. Surgical tube rigs coupled with a sandworm appeared to be the rig of choice for many boat fishermen. Fly fisherman once again had their problems during 2001. Mackerel were abundant along most of the

coast all season except occasionally from Saco west due to bluefish. Yes, bluefish. For the first time in several years fair numbers of these saltwater piranhas could be had just within a few miles of the beach from Portland to Kittery. Unfortunately, for most of those who fish east of Portland, bluefish remained a distant memory. The interest in shad continued to grow as we saw more and more people targeting the "poor man's tarpon," especially on the Saco, Kennebec and Mousam Rivers. With the mild winter we experienced, most all of the tidal areas remained open for brown trout fishing. It was common on any given sunny day during the winter to go by Rogers Pond and see several fly enthusiasts casting (and catching) away.

Again this past season, the DMR collected all recreational survey data within the state, as part of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS). Several programs that directly benefit the saltwater angler were continued and/or expanded including maintaining the Maine State Saltwater Game Fish Records, the Tackle-Busters Club and a Volunteer Angler Logbook Program.

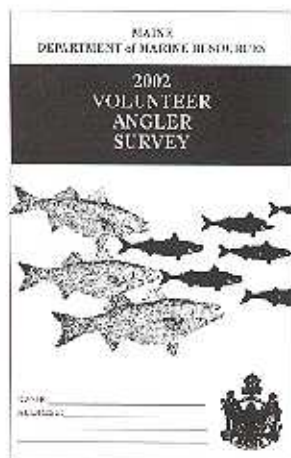
Also, courtesy of the Portland Press Herald, a weekly Saltwater Fishing update column appeared each Thursday in the paper's sports section. This, in addition to an Internet site, which was updated each Friday, provided the latest information on recreational saltwater fishing to the public.



Photos from lower right, clockwise courtesy of Captain Dan Garfield, Captain Tim Tower and Mrs. Terri Treask.



VOLUNTEER ANGLER LOGBOOK PROGRAM



Briefly, this program targets avid striped bass fishermen as a means of collecting additional length data. Though we have increased the sample size of the MRFSS, it still misses lengths and weights on sub-legal or released strippers because Maine's striped bass fishery has length and bag limits. Coupled with the fact many anglers opt for catch and release, field interviewers actually see limited numbers of fish. The Volunteer Angler Logbook (VAL) program is quite simple. An angler records information about fish harvested or released during each trip for him/herself and any fishing companions. Information about each

trip is also recorded, including time spent fishing, area fished, number of anglers and target species. At the end of the season each angler mails his/her logbook to us, which we then copy and send back to the angler.

A preliminary summary of the 2001 data follows:

One hundred thirty-seven logbooks were distributed during the 2001 fishing season, of which 74% (101) were returned and summarized. It's worth noting that 89% (122) participants responded in some manner at season's end, some noting no fishing for the season or lost logbooks. Logbook return rates are continuing to improve each year: 33% in 1998, 43% in 1999, 52% in 2000 and 74% this past season.

The following species were reported as being caught: alewife, Atlantic cod, Atlantic mackerel, blue shark, bluefish, brown trout, catfish, chubs, cunner, cusk, flounder, haddock, hake, herring, hornpout, mako shark, ocean pout, pollock, porbeagle shark, redfish, sculpin, American shad, skate, smallmouth bass, spiny dogfish, striped bass, white perch.

Effort data

- The 101 logbook keepers reported 2,488 fishing trips which, when multiplied by the number of logbook keepers and their fishing companions, results in 4,692 individual angler trips.
- The 101 logbook keepers reported they and their fishing companions fished over 15,046 angler-hours in the course of the season.
- One striped bass was caught per angler-hour on self/family/friends trips targeting striped bass as primary or secondary target (1,843 trips). This is the same as for the previous year (2,002 trips).

Trip details

- **Trip cost:** Average cost for self/family/friend trips was \$16.38 (1,614 self/family/friend trips reported cost).
- **Fishing platform:** 68% (1,694) boat trips, 26% (654) shore trips, 6% (141) pier/dock trips, 2% (45) jetty trips, 1% (15) trips unreported platform.
- **Trip type:** 2,108 self/family/friends trips, 321 charter/party trips (note that some log keepers are charter captains), 20 tournament trips, 39 unreported trip type.
- **Terminal gear:** 54% (1,334) trips used lures, 45% (1,108) trips used bait, 27% (668) trips used flies, 1% (19) unreported gear.
- **Hook type:** 64% (1,583) trips used conventional, 26% (640) trips used barbless, 26% (638) trips used circle, 3% (78) unreported hook type.

Catch data - striped bass

- Of the 2,488 reported fishing trips, 92% (2,279) targeted striped bass as primary or secondary target.
- A total of 10,239 striped bass were caught on 1,692 trips. 10% (1,028) of these strippers were kept and 90% (9,211) were released.

- Lengths were estimated or measured for 9,173 striped bass.
- 57% (5,245) strippers with estimated or measured lengths were slot length (20" - 26"). Of these, 19% (980) were kept and 81% (4265) were released.
- 23 striped bass were estimated or measured to be 40" or greater in length (19 were actually measured). 7 of these were kept and 16 were released.
- 43% (3,906) striped bass with estimated or measured lengths were not legal size.
- Figure 1 summarizes the striped bass length frequency distribution (measured and estimated lengths combined, using total length) for 2001.

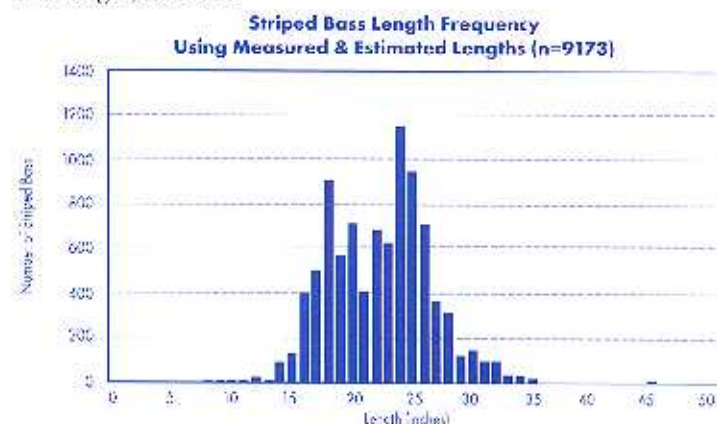


Figure 1. Striped bass length frequency.

Catch data - bluefish & Atlantic mackerel

- 507 bluefish were caught on 135 trips. Of the 507 blues caught, 45% (227) were kept and 55% (280) were released.
- Over 9,537 Atlantic mackerel were caught on 427 trips. Of these, 84% (8,037) were kept and 16% (1,500) were released.

We are currently taking requests from individuals who would like to participate during 2002. If you are interested or would like more details please give me a call.

THE MARINE RECREATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

In March of 1996, Governor King initiated an Executive Order to establish a Recreational Marine Fisheries Advisory Council and legislation was passed in 1999 creating a Marine Recreational Fishing Advisory Council. The purpose of this Council is to advise the Commissioner of the DMR on issues pertaining to recreational marine fisheries, including but not limited to the needs and priorities of the recreational sector, conservation measures, improvement of communications between recreational and commercial fisheries interests and programs to enhance the status of marine recreational species.

The Marine Recreational Fishing Advisory Council legislation states that this Council shall be comprised of nine members as follows. Four members shall represent the State's recreational marine fisheries and reflect a geographic distribution along the coast [Robert Magosci (York County, western Maine), Gerald Rideout (Casco Bay, midcoast), Ed Rief (Bangor, Penobscot Bay), Tom Carter (Downeast)]. Three members shall represent the party/charter industry (Tim Tower, Peter Ripley and David Pecci). One member shall represent the tackle shop owners (Cal Robinson). One member shall represent the commercial fishing industry (Craig Pendleton). This legislation further stipulates that the chair of this Council (Peter Ripley) be an ex officio member of the full DMR Marine Resources Advisory Council.

Please feel free to contact any of these members or myself if you have concerns or issues you would like to see DMR address.

Tackle-Busters



This is a "club" of saltwater anglers who have landed a "BIG ONE" in Maine. The rules are simple: any of the fish listed must be taken on rod and

reel, line testing strength is not limited, live and cut baits may be used as well as artificial lures. Anglers who wish to apply for Tackle-Busters yet want to release their fish unharmed may do so. If the fish measures the minimum qualifying length or greater, it qualifies. A photo of the fish beside a tape measure would provide the necessary verification of size. To join, simply fill out a Tackle-Busters card and mail with a photo of the fish. Look for displays of this program at a variety of bait and tackle shops and sporting goods stores. Application cards may be obtained from these displays or directly from our Department. Remember that even though a fish may make the minimum Tackle-Buster weight, if there is a regulatory minimum size, that size **MUST** be observed. For example, if an angler has a striped bass that weighs 26 pounds, it must still measure the legally required 40 inches or greater if the angler is to keep that fish.

During the 2001 season, 300 Tackle-Buster cards were submitted. The largest fish in each category is as follows:

	Number Submitted	Weight	Length	Angler	Date
Bluefish	1	15 lbs.	33 inches	JEFF WALLER	10/3/01
Cod	147	59 lbs.	50 inches	FRED KUNZ	10/29/01
Cusk	10	9.75 lbs.	37.5 inches	SAM BEAN	8/15/01
Haddock	72	11 lbs.	29.5 inches	JON GALE	4/16/01
Hake	5	23 lbs.	40 inches	MARK BEYNON	9/1/01
Pollock	12	34 lbs.	44.25 inches	TIM TOWER	10/19/01
Shad	1	4.75 lbs.	23.5 inches	ROBERT MAGGCSI	5/29/01
Striped bass	17	33 lbs.	43 inches	CHUCK HILB	7/25/01
		33 lbs.	43.5 inches	CURT MITCHEL	7/1/01
		33 lbs.	44.5 inches	ROY VREELAND	7/25/01
White hake	17	35 lbs.	47 inches	DANIEL PIMENTEL	10/11/01
Wolfish	18	26.5 lbs.	42.25 inches	GEORGE E. WOODWORTH	7/2/01

2002 Minimum qualifying weights and lengths

Bluefish	5 lbs. or 36 inches	Porbeagle shark	100 lbs.
Bluefin tuna	600 lbs.	Pollock	25 lbs.
Cod	25 lbs.	Shad	21 inches
Cusk	12 lbs.	Striped bass	25 lbs. or 42 inches
Haddock	7 lbs.	Thresher shark	100 lbs.
Hake	15 lbs.	Winter flounder	2 lbs.
Mackerel	2 lbs.	Wolfish	15 lbs.
Mako shark	250 lbs.		



16-year old Lauren Adams and her 26.5 lb. cod.



Theodore Riehle shows off his 8.5 lb. haddock.

How did 2001 compare with 2000?

In 2001, no mackerel, sharks or tuna were entered while we saw a significant jump in cod entries, a drop in pollock and status quo with the other species.



Elizabeth O'Brien displays her 22.25 lb. wolfish.



7-year old Collin Morgan and his monster 41 lb. cod.

Photos courtesy of Captain Tim Tower

NEW FOR 2002: PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR THE TOP FISH IN EACH CATEGORY. ALL CARDS AND PICTURES MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE BY DECEMBER 1 TO BE ELIGIBLE.

MAINE STATE SALTWATER GAME FISH RECORDS

The application used with this program closely mirrors the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) form with the exception of line class categories. Maine State Records are all-tackle. The four categories in which an angler may qualify a fish under the Maine State Saltwater Game Fish Program are: Harpoon (only bluefin tuna and swordfish are eligible), Handline, Rod and Reel and Fly Rod.

The Maine State Saltwater Records Committee (MSSRC) meets each winter to review any potential new records.

In 2000, the MSSRC unanimously decided to mirror the IGFA and

open a JUNIOR ANGLER CATEGORY, ages 16 and under. Junior anglers are governed by the same MSSRC rules as adult anglers with the exception that junior anglers may weigh their fish in a boat on certified scales in order to facilitate live release. For further details specific to this category give us a call.

The rules and regulations along with an application for qualifying a game fish can be obtained by calling 207-633-9500, e-mailing bruce.joule@state.me.us, or you can download the information from <http://outdoors.maine.gov/fishing/bruce/records.shtml>. Also, at this site one can view pictures of all State Record fish.

THE MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES STATISTICS SURVEY

The Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) is a nation-wide program implemented in 1979 by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as a means to establish a reliable database for estimating the impact of recreational fishing on marine resources. This survey is conducted in all U.S. coastal states. The information is used by Fishery Management Councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), as well as Federal and State resource agencies to formulate fishery management plans, to evaluate future demands on fish stocks and to predict and evaluate the impact of fishery regulations. Estimates generated from this survey include: total number of fish caught, released and harvested; the weight of the harvest; total number of angler trips; and number of people participating in marine recreational fishing. In most states the NMFS contracts private individuals to do this survey work. In Maine, the DMR has assumed responsibility for the survey because it was shown that we greatly improved on the accuracy and quantity of the information being collected. Further, the DMR is able to increase the number of angler interviews collected during the season several fold beyond the NMFS requirements for Maine, giving us a significantly improved database that generates more precise estimates.

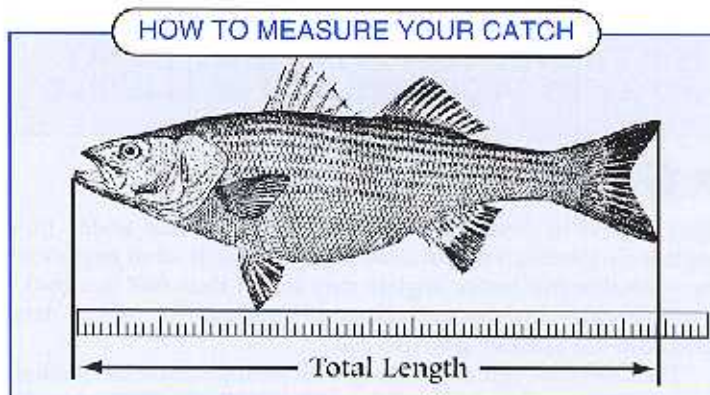
The DMR's goal is to increase the number of angler interviews collected during the season to a level of approximately 2.5 times the base level required by the NMFS. During the May 1 through October 31, 2001 sampling season, a total of 2,549 anglers were interviewed at various coastal sites from Kittery to Eastport. This number represents an additional 1,389 interviews above the NMFS base of 1,180 interviews. Specifically, by mode, we interviewed 787 shore anglers, 1,199 private boat anglers and 563 anglers who fished on charter or headboats.

Of the 2,549 anglers interviewed, 1,874 anglers (74%) had been saltwater fishing in Maine at least once in the twelve months prior to their interview while 1,423 anglers (56%) had been saltwater fishing in Maine at least once in the two months prior to their interview.

Briefly, some of the 2001 data highlights:

• How many people went fishing in Maine?

Approximately **306,000 anglers** went saltwater recreational fishing in Maine, of which 140,963 were Maine residents (roughly 11% of the Maine population). It should be noted that this is the first year that more out-of-state anglers than resident anglers participated in saltwater angling. For a picture of the 5-year trend in saltwater participation see Figure 2.



For regulatory purposes, the total length measurement of a fish is used. The proper way to measure a fish is to place the fish on top of the measuring device. Total length is measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.

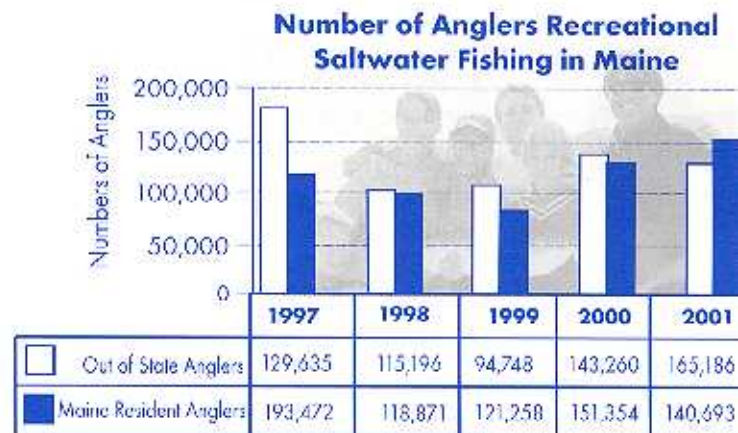


Figure 2. Numbers of resident and non-resident saltwater anglers in Maine from 1997 to 2001.

• How many fishing trips did these people make?

Anglers made over **925,270 individual fishing trips**. For a picture of the 5-year trend in effort see Figure 3.



Figure 3. Individual saltwater fishing trips in Maine from 1997 to 2001.

• Where do the people come from?

People from 40 states were interviewed.

• What were anglers fishing for as their primary targeted species?

Striped bass was the primary targeted species for:

45% of shore anglers fished,
76% of private boat anglers and
75% of charterboat anglers.

Atlantic cod was the primary targeted species for 33% of headboat anglers.

• What did anglers catch?

Alewife, American eel, American shad, Atlantic cod, Atlantic herring, Atlantic mackerel, Atlantic menhaden, Atlantic wolffish, bluefish, brown bullhead, brown trout, cunner, cusk, goosefish, haddock, hake, largemouth bass, longhorn sculpin, northern searobin, pollock, redfish, red hake, flounder, sculpin, sea raven, skate, smallmouth bass, spiny dogfish, striped bass, trout, winter flounder and yellow perch were all reported.

• How did this year's catch compare to others?

Striped bass: The total catch (includes harvested and released fish) in 2001 was approximately 917,000 striped bass. Of this total, approximately 59,500 were harvested which equates to about 6.5% of the total catch. Figures 4 and 5 show yearly total catch and harvest, respectively, from 1997 to 2001. The length frequency distributions of all striped bass measured during the 2001 sampling season are shown in Figure 6. Note that length

is measured to the center of the fork and not to total length.



Figure 4. Total catch of striped bass in Maine from 1997 to 2001.

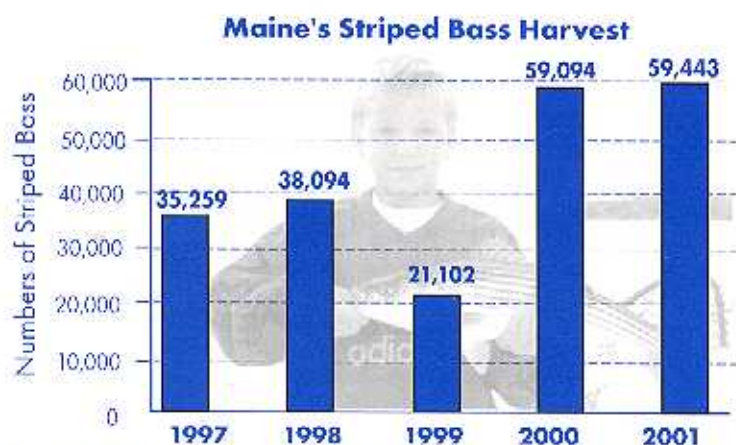


Figure 5. Total harvest of striped bass in Maine from 1997 to 2001.

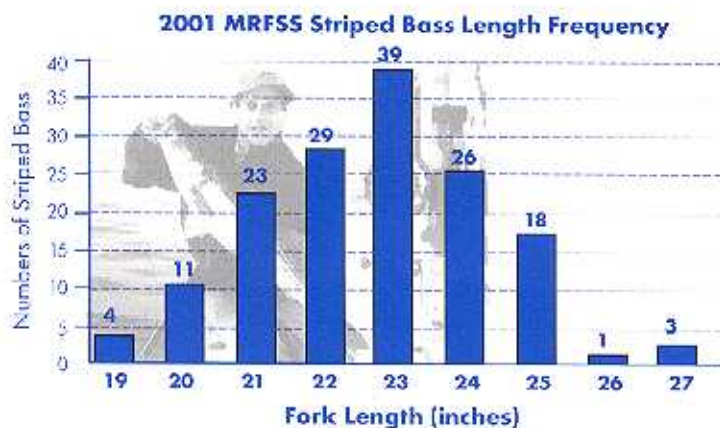


Figure 6. Striped bass length frequency distribution.

How does Maine's total catch and harvest stack up to the rest of the New England states? See Figures 7 & 8.

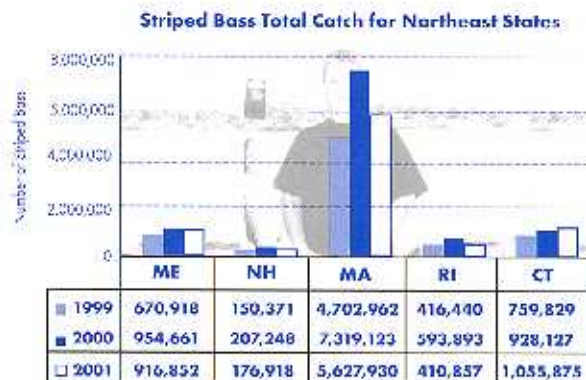


Figure 7. New England States total catch from 1999 to 2001.

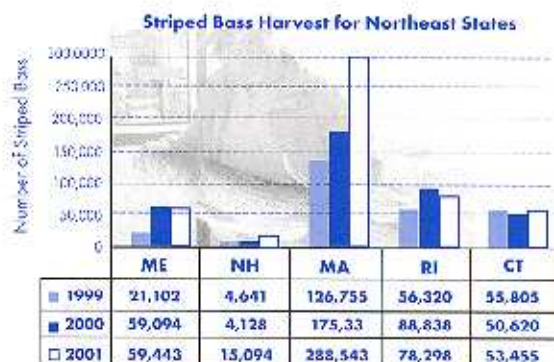


Figure 8. New England States harvest from 1999 to 2001.

Mackerel: The total catch in 2001 was approximately 1,483,500 mackerel of which about 1,168,000 (79%) were harvested. For comparison, see Figure 9 for total catch of Atlantic mackerel from 1997 to 2001.

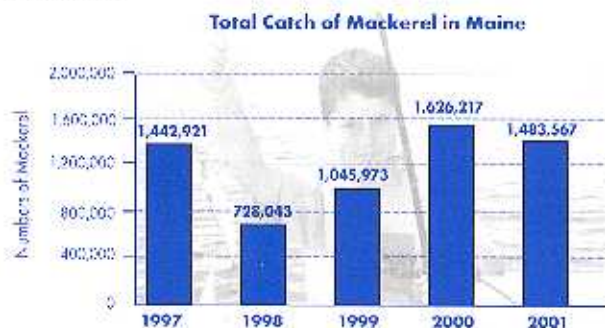


Figure 9. Total catch of Atlantic mackerel in Maine from 1997 to 2001.

For those of you interested in looking at information on other species or similar information for other states, log on to <http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/recreational/index.html>. This is really an easy to use informative site!

In addition to standard MRFSS questions, we request economic related information. Our questions include:

- What did you spend for today's fishing trip? Include everything related to the trip that is actually paid for on this day, such as boat fees, gas, tolls, parking, bait and meals.
- Is this a day trip or are you away from home for at least one night?

continued on page 6

Photos in figures 2-5 courtesy of
Capt. Ben Garfield, Ms. Joan Young, Ms. Terri Trask, Capt. Ben Garfield, Capt. Gary Scavette
Ms. Terri Trask, Mr. Ray Vondra and Capt. Ben Garfield respectively.

- (If away from home for at least one night)
How many nights will you be away from home?
How many days will you spend fishing?
Would you have made this trip if you were not planning to fish?
- And the survey said:

Average Personal Daily Expenditures by Fishing Mode:

[] = number of anglers who answered

	SHORE	PRIVATE/RENTAL BOATS	HEAD & CHARTER BOATS	CHARTER BOATS
Maine Residents	\$6.01 [439]	\$17.54 [934]	\$83.20 [129]	\$118.60 [47]
Non Maine Residents on a Day Trip	\$12.68 [44]	\$19.51 [112]	\$97.70 [69]	\$164.50 [12]
Non-Maine Residents on an Extended Trip	\$11.52 [275]	\$13.15 [109]	\$115.90 [220]	\$170.40 [70]

It should be noted that these daily expenditures include only an individual's expenses for a specific day of fishing. Multiplying the above dollar amounts by the NMFS estimated total trips in Maine for 2001, daily personal expenses combine for a total in excess of **\$13,000,000.**

ATLANTIC COASTAL COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM

The ACCSP is Increasing Angler Surveys in the Northeast!

To increase the precision of marine recreational fishery catch estimates, the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP), a state and federal coastal fisheries data collection and data management program, is continuing funding for increased Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFS) sampling from Maine to Virginia in 2002.

With these increases in sampling, the ACCSP intends to bring the Northeast states closer to current MRFS sampling levels in the Southeast, which are funded by federal budget allocations. Increased sample sizes in the Southeast result in more precise estimates with significant improvements for commonly managed species at the state level.

Some states in the Northeast Region, including Maine, have increased sampling and improved their MRFS estimates through other funding sources; however, consistent financing has not historically been available to the entire region. Improved levels of precision for all states in the Northeast are crucial for adequate inter-state fishery management decisions, allocations and stock assessments.

Enhanced MRFS angler intercept and telephone sampling in the Northeast began in March of 2001 with a 50% increase. Some

In addition, even more is spent in Maine for marina or docking fees, boat purchase loans, boat/engine repair, insurance, fishing tackle, overnight accommodations, and other related costs.

Extended Trip From Home

(anglers away from home 1 to 30 nights)

	SHORE	PRIVATE/RENTAL BOATS	HEAD & CHARTER BOATS	CHARTER BOATS
Number of Anglers Who Responded	318	223	287	79
Ave. Days Away from Home	6	3	4	5
Ave. Days Spent Fishing	3	2	2	2
Would Not Have Made Extended Trip if Not Planning to Fish	19%	55%	41%	39%

If during the course of the 2002 fishing season you encounter my staff or myself in the field, please give us a few minutes of your time to answer some questions about your fishing trip. It really is a painless process!

increases in precision are expected. In general, estimates that are already very precise will not see much practical difference, while estimates that are considerably higher than the ACCSP goal of 20% proportional standard error should see improvement. For some fisheries there may not be much of an effect as other factors influence the variability of the estimates, such as low abundance of a species, pulse type fishing activity and changes in seasons and regulations.

About the ACCSP

The ACCSP's partners are the 15 Atlantic states' natural resource management agencies (including the Maine Department of Marine Resources), the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the three regional fisheries management councils, the District of Columbia Fisheries and Wildlife Division, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Together these resource managers have developed a plan to cooperatively collect, manage and disseminate fishery statistical data for the Atlantic coast, and to support the development and operation of a national program. For further information on the ACCSP, visit their website at www.accsp.org.

NEW Atlantic Halibut Regulations for 2002

Season:

East: The open season to fish for Atlantic halibut east of a line from Schoodic Point in territorial waters began at sunrise May 1st and will end at sunset July 31st.

West: The open season to fish for Atlantic halibut west of Schoodic Point in territorial waters began at sunrise April 1st and will end at sunset June 30th.

Size limit: All Atlantic halibut caught in state waters must be 36 inches or greater.

Possession limits: No more than (1) Atlantic halibut may be landed per day from recreational, party or charter vessels. Recreational, party or charter vessels may land no more than 50 Atlantic halibut per season.

Gear Type and Limits: It is illegal to fish for Atlantic halibut by

any method other than using size '14 00' or greater circle hooks. The maximum number of circle hooks per vessel shall be 450 per day.

Recreational fishermen are not required to obtain a commercial license and endorsement to fish for Atlantic halibut.

The DMR is conducting an Atlantic halibut tagging project.

What to do if you catch an Atlantic halibut with a tag:

1. If you are keeping the fish, return the tag, with the catch location to DMR.
2. If you are not keeping the fish, record the tag number and catch location and report it to DMR. Release the fish as quickly as possible.

For more information please contact Kohl Kanwit at the Department of Marine Resources: PO Box 8 West Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575, 207-633-9535.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR 2002

These rules apply to all the waters of the State of Maine within the rise and fall of the tide and within the marine limits of the State, but not including areas above any fishway or dam when the fishway or dam is the dividing line between tidewater and freshwater.

Recreational Marine Fishing License Information

- **Saltwater angling licenses are not required for recreational saltwater angling.** A commercial license is required when any marine species is sold and when more than the recreational bag limits are in the possession of the angler. There are regulations covering size, bag limits, possession limits and methods of fishing for, but not limited to the following species: Atlantic salmon, Atlantic bluefin tuna, sturgeon, striped bass, bluefish, cod, haddock, halibut, pollock, redfish, smelt, winter/summer flounder and sharks. Current recreational saltwater fishing information can be obtained by contacting the Recreational Marine Fisheries Program, Maine DMR, PO Box 8, West Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575; 207-633-9500.
- **Angling for freshwater fish in tidal waters** - All rules governing methods of taking, size, bag, and possession limits conform with the Maine IF&W general law open water fishing regulations. It is unlawful to jig for freshwater fish (brown trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, black crappie, rainbow trout, brook trout, chain pickerel and landlocked salmon) in the coastal waters of Maine.
- **Recreational shellfishing** (clams, quahogs, oysters, mussels) is permitted in designated open areas. Most harvest of soft shell clams is regulated by the individual towns. Contact your town for local regulations and permits.
For updated information on Red Tide closures call the Red Tide Hotline at 1-800-232-4733.
For information on shellfishing areas closed due to pollution or contamination call the DMR labs at 207-633-9500 (Kittery to Cape Jellison) or 207-667-5634 (Cape Jellison to Eastport).

Statewide regulations pertaining to recreational shellfish possession limits are as follows:

- **Soft Shell Clams** (*Mya arenaria*) - any person may take and possess up to 1/2 bushel per day that conforms with 2" minimum size law.
- **Surf/Hen Clams** (*Spisula solidissima*) - any person may take and possess up to 3 bushels per day.
- **Mahogany Quahogs** (*Arctica islandica*) - any person may take and possess up to 3 bushels per day.
- **Quahogs** (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) - any person may take and possess up to 1/2 bushel per day.
- **Oysters** (*Crassostrea virginica* & *Ostrea edulis*) - any person may take and possess 1/2 bushel per day. Note: For specific regulations on European oysters please contact your local Marine Patrol Officer.
- **Mussels** (*Mytilus edulis*) - any person may take and possess up to 2 bushels per day.
- **Marine Worms** - an individual may take and possess 125 marine worms (blood, sand and clam worms) per day for bait.
- **Scallops** - an individual must have a non-commercial scallop license to fish for scallops (hand/drag). Further, a non-commercial license holder may not sell scallops and may not take or possess more than 2 bushels of shellstock or 4 quarts of shucked scallops.
- **Lobster/Crab** - a non-commercial lobster and crab license is available and allows up to five traps for personal use only (no sale of lobsters). All other provisions of lobster and crab laws

otherwise apply to this recreational license.

For further information please call DMR at 207-624-6550.

Law Enforcement

Your local Marine Patrol Officer can be contacted through the following offices:

- Division I (Kittery - Thomaston) - Bureau of Marine Patrol, PO Box 8, McKown Point, W. Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575; 207-633-9595.
- Division II (Thomaston - Calais) - Bureau of Marine Patrol, RED #2, c/o Lamoine State Park, Ellsworth, ME 04605; 207-667-3373.
- For emergencies, 24 hours per day, Marine Patrol Officers are available through the Maine State Police at:

1-800-452-4664, Augusta Barracks 1-800-228-0857, Gray Barracks
1-800-432-7381, Orono Barracks 1-800-432-7303, Washington County
Regional Communications-Machias

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY:

Warning: Chemicals in some Maine saltwater fish may harm people who eat them. Women who are or may become pregnant and children should carefully follow the Safe Eating Guidelines.

The Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Public Health has issued a health advisory for several saltwater species for 2002. It's hard to believe that fish that look, smell, and taste fine may not be safe to eat. But the truth is that some saltwater fish have mercury, PCBs and Dioxins in them. All these chemicals settle into the ocean from the air. PCBs and Dioxins also flow into the ocean through our rivers. These chemicals then build up in fish.

Small amounts of mercury can damage a brain starting to form or grow. That's why babies in the womb, nursing babies, and young children are at most risk. Mercury can also harm older children and adults, but it takes larger amounts.

PCBs and Dioxins can cause cancer and other health problems if too much build up in your body. Due to the possible presence of these chemicals, the Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Public Health asks that all consumers of the following saltwater species adhere to the following safe eating guidelines.

SAFE EATING GUIDELINES

- Striped Bass and Bluefish: Eat no more than 2 meals per month.
- Shark, Swordfish, King Mackerel, and Tilefish: Pregnant and nursing women, women who may get pregnant and children under 8 years of age are advised to not eat any swordfish or shark. All other individuals should eat no more than 2 meals per month.
- All other ocean fish and shellfish, including canned fish and shellfish: Pregnant and nursing women, women who may get pregnant and children under 8 years of age should eat no more than 2 meals per week.

Anyone wanting further information concerning fish consumption advisories should contact the Bureau of Public Health directly at (886)-292-3474 or visit their web site: <http://www.state.me.us/dhs/etp/index.html>

MAINE'S 2001 TOURNEY SEASON

There were five major saltwater fishing tournaments and numerous private ones held during 2001.

The season kicked off July 23 with the **63rd Annual Bailey Island Fishing Tournament**. The top fishermen were: Scott Lorfano/John Harmon II (tuna, 448 pounds), Marshall Johnson (striped bass, 24 pounds 10 ounces), Scott Lorfano (bluefish, 13 pounds 5 ounces), Bob LaPointe (cod, 33 pounds 3 ounces), Taylor Goodwin (pollock, 13 pounds 8 ounces) and David Haggett (mackerel, 2 pounds 2 ounces); while in the Junior Tournament Anthony Cuppernell (mackerel, 1 pound 5 ounces), Daniel Mitchell (bluefish, 12 pounds 10 ounces) and Liz Curtis (striped bass, 7 pounds 10 ounces) were the big winners!

Next up on the tourney scene was the **Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament** held August 2-4. Peter Speeches took the top two spots (480 pounds, 382 pounds) while Joe Tufts took third (370 pounds).

August 4 and 5 were the dates for the **10th Annual Royal River Striper Tournament**. Ted Colebiewski grabbed first place in the stripers category (41 inches) while Tom DePaolo won the bluefish category (12.95 pounds) and Erin Dioli won the mackerel category (.94 pound).

Yamaha Maine Saltwater Sportfishing Open, formerly the New England Bluefish Open, was held August 11 and 12. The first place winners were: Charles Yattah (bluefish, 13.04 pounds), Kevin Burgess (pollock, 11.18 pounds), John Harmon (cod, 24.38 pounds), Vincent Minutti (striped bass, 34.9 pounds) and Mark Burgess (mackerel, 1.87 pounds).

Rounding out the 2001 tourney season was the **MDA & ERA Agency 13rd Annual Sport Fishing Tournament**, August 17-19. The top winners were: Stephanie Bower (bluefish, 12.30 pounds), Robin Sellinger (groundfish, 25.80 pounds) and in the 12 and under mackerel category, David Hulit (1.70 pounds).

Congratulations to all the winners!

In conclusion,

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or would like more information about a particular topic. I am always looking for people to provide me with fishing information from anywhere along the coast. If you are interested please give me a call or e-mail. Thanks for all of your support.

Sincerely, *B. J. Joule*

Bruce J. Joule

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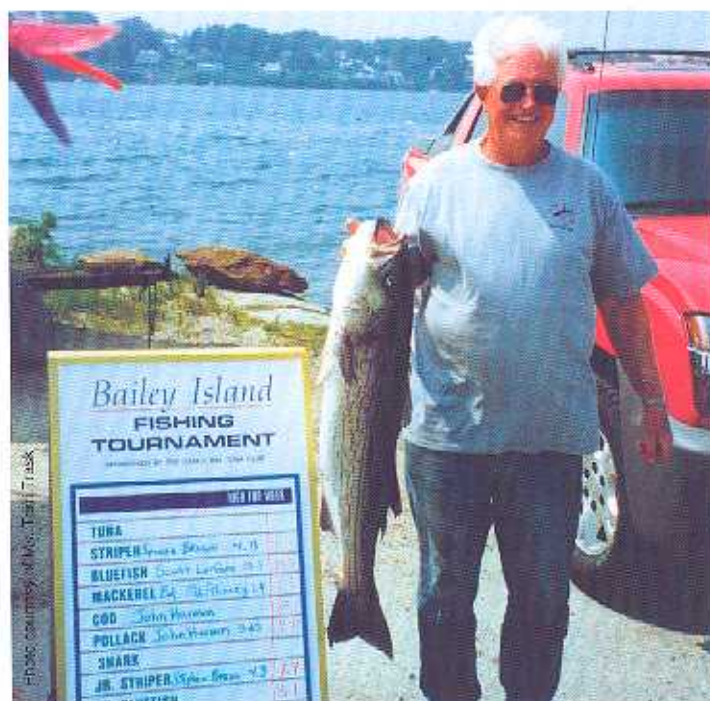
Where to look for the latest information in 2002

Bruce Joule's weekly saltwater sportfish update column appears each Thursday in the Portland Press Herald Sports Section, from May through October and can be found at the Portland Press Herald web site on the Saltwater Angling page, <http://outdoors.maine.com/fishing/bruce/>.

This column is updated each Thursday and discusses what is going on, what people are catching, where, with what, etc. along with observations from our angler survey along the coast.

In addition, at this web site, anglers can find information about:

- Saltwater fishing regulations
- Know your catch
- Catch and release tips
- Marine recreational angler survey
- Maine's charter/partyboat fleet
- Maine State Saltwater Angler Records rules, application, current record holders and photos
- Tackle-Busters Club rules, application and photos



This year's striped bass winner in the Bailey Island Fishing Tournament is Marshall Johnson.

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